/409 cont./

325 put into the mold. The crucible remains open, and a piece of
[237] stag's horn is placed over the opening; it burns and, according to the Meau, is supposed to make the molten metal white and homogeneous. The crucible thus filled is now solidly encased in charcoal, and the bellows are set in motion. Soon the metal begins to melt. Some tobacco is sprinkled over the molten silver in order to prevent oxidation. The film of tobacco and ashes which forms on the silver is blown away with a small tube, and the molten, pure silver is poured into a bar-shaped mold. Before further use the silver bar thus produced is heated slightly and then shaped with a hammer. The
[824] finished products are ground with stones and finally boiled and polished with the juice of lemons or other wild, acid plants.
[413] In certain instances, ornaments are cut out, and, to be sure,
[171] for this the chisel is used, whereas files are unknown. Strangely enough, the Meau in Thailand in contrast to the other mountain peoples of Farther India, are not familiar with any chased work.

/410/ Copper and brass, usually from broken vessels that
[177] came from China, undergo a process similar to that used for
[439] silver. Both metals are procured directly or indirectly from China, as is lead, which is traded in slabs five centimeters thick and ten centimeters wide.

The iron purchased as bar-iron is used for the manufacture of weapons, knives, tools, and the springs for the gunlocks. For this purpose, the iron is hardened by hammers. Wire-
[414] drawing is unknown, and the Meau do not produce any nails or screws. Buttons, ornaments, and decorations on knives and
[531] guns are made out of silver, the magic rings (see the chapter,
[301] "Religion and Magic," the section, 'Magic, Soothsaying, Interpretation of Omens") out of copper, and finally the metal parts of mouth organs out of brass, whereas lead is used exclusively for the manufacture of bullets. The Meau do not make metal alloys from the metals used by them, and even
[323] clay forms for casting are unknown, since pottery is unknown.